Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 27 September 2026

8.00 Holy Communion
The order of service is printed on the laminated card.
The Reading, Gospel, and Prayers of the People can be found below.

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Organ 'Evensong' *Easthope Martin (1882-1925)*

The Entrance Hymn #48 *From the Hymnal 1982*

The Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant introduces the Confession in these or similar words.

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to his table. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

All kneel. Silence is kept. The Celebrant begins the Confession, saying,

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against thee
and against our neighbor,
in thought, and word, and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are heartily sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve thee in newness of life,
to the glory of thy name.
Amen.

The Celebrant says the Absolution.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand.

Kyrie Eleison from Mass for 4 Voices *John Stainer (1840-1901)*

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray. O God, who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running to obtain thy promises, may be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Reading *Philippians 2.1-13*

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

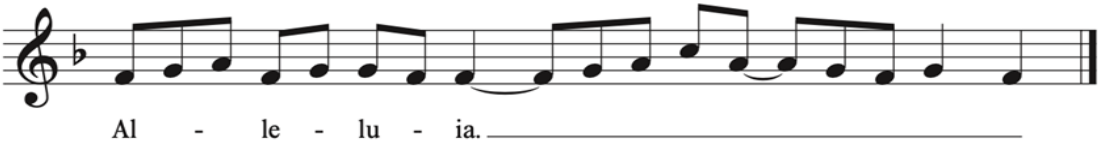
If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

The Alleluia

Cantor: O God, my heart is steadfast, I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel *St Matthew 21.23-32*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon *The Reverend Dr David Olsen*

All stand.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God;
begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried:
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

All kneel.

The Prayers of the People

In our prayers this week, we remember the Anglican Church of Bangladesh; and in the Albany Diocese, our bishop, Jeremiah, and the people of St Michael's Church, Colonie.

We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear us when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore, in confidence and trust, we pray:

Enliven the Church for its mission;
That we may be the salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.
Give us the power to reveal Christ in word and action.

Lead us and all people in the ways of justice and peace.
That we may honor one another and seek the common good.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.
Teach us to be better stewards of its resources.

Inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others;
That our leaders may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.
May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit, especially Patti, Norma, Jerilyn, Paula, John and Linda.
May they know the power of your healing love.

Remember Orson Richards and all who have died, especially those with no one to pray for them.
Into your hands, Lord, we commend them.

Give comfort to those who mourn;
And grant them peace in their time of loss.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.
May their example inspire and encourage us.

Celebrant: Enter our hearts, O King of glory and be pleased to dwell therein, that with the angels and archangels we might praise thy holy name, and live our lives dedicated to Thy glory. **Amen.**

All stand. At the exchange of the Peace, you may greet those around you in the name of the Lord.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

During the hymn, a collection is taken to support the work and ministry of Bethesda Church.

Hymn at the Offertory #343

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

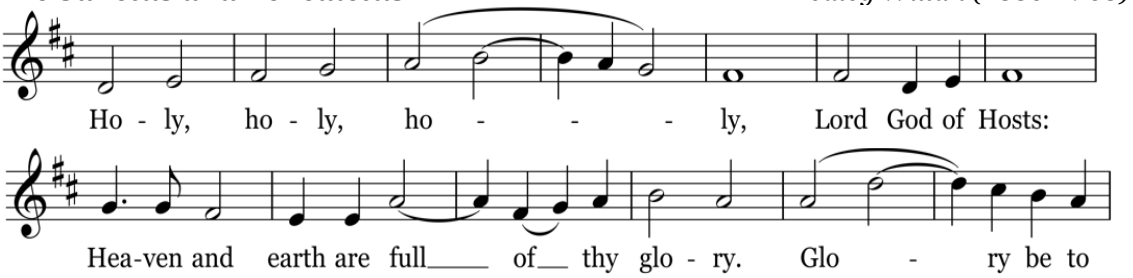
The Eucharistic Prayer

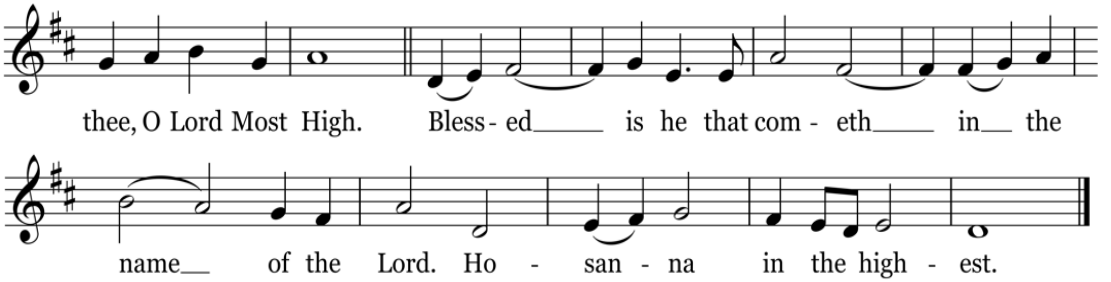
The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up unto the Lord.
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Creator of the light and source of life, who hast made us in thine image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying,

The Sanctus and Benedictus

Healey Willan (1880-1968)





All kneel. The Celebrant says the Eucharistic Prayer printed on p. 341 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The prayer concludes, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Agnus Dei from Communion Service in F *Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Communion is distributed at the high altar rail. Please move at the direction of the ushers. During Communion, the Choir sings the following motet.

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens, obediens usque ad mortem autem crucis.
Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum et dedit illi nomen quod est super omne nomen.

Christ became obedient for us unto death, even death on the cross. Therefore, God has exalted highly Him and given Him a name which is above all names. (Phil. 2:8-9)

Communion Hymn #328 *(remain kneeling or seated)* *From the Hymnal 1982*

After Communion, all kneel.

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. **Almighty and ever living God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Closing Hymn #565 *From the Hymnal 1982*

Organ Festival Voluntary *Flor Peeters (1903-1986)*

Notice

Welcome to Bethesda! Please join us for fellowship following the 10am service. Thanks to Laurie Brenenstuhl and Caroline for providing refreshments this week.

Thank you to our **preacher**, Dr. David Olsen, and to our **readers** and **intercessors**: Lynne Priestley (8am), Genna Henderson, and Judy Aronstamm (10am).

The **flowers** at the high altar are given in loving memory of Tim Brenenstuhl by his parents Laurie and Gary Brenenstuhl.

Music Notes Today's instrumental music frames the service in contrasting textures of pastoral contemplation and celebratory exclamation. The Prelude, Easthope Martin's Evensong, captures the quiet nostalgia and peaceful spirit of traditional evening prayer services, utilizing gentle organ registrations to establish a serene acoustic backdrop before the liturgy begins. In vibrant contrast, the Postlude features Flor Peeters' Festival Voluntary (Op. 87). Written by the celebrated Belgian organist of Mechelen Cathedral, this joyful work is defined by a spiky, rhythmic drive and bold modal colorings. Relying on bright mixture stops and rising to a dramatic harmonic climax, the piece concludes the service with an energized atmosphere of triumphant praise and festive renewal.

Parish House Project Update. Parishioners and neighbors should begin to notice activity on the vacant lot and at the former Rectory across the street in the coming days, as work on the Parish House project gets underway. With approvals now in place from the City Planning Board and Design Review Board, site preparation at "30 Washington Street" is expected to begin around 1st October, including fencing, excavation, and preparation for the new foundation. Foundation work is scheduled to begin at the end of October, with the move of the stone house from 23 Washington Street currently planned for the first week of December. The exact date will depend upon final approval for the necessary closure of Washington Street. There will be some temporary sidewalk closures and construction activity in the coming weeks. We are delighted to have reached this long-awaited stage of the project and look forward to watching the new Parish House take shape. Needless to say, all dates and arrangements remain subject to change — but given the past few years, that will hardly come as news to anyone at Bethesda!

Special Monthly Envelope Funds raised in **September** will be divided between the feeding ministry at the local Presbyterian – United Church of Christ which provides a daily hot meal to those in need, and Christ Church Food Pantry, a ministry operated by the Episcopal parish in Ballston Spa.

The Bethesda Knitting Group welcomes anyone interested in knitting, fellowship, and outreach. For more information, please contact Carol or Jean through the Parish Office.

Study Group *Learning from the life and witness of Bonhoeffer*. Join David and Cheryl Olsen for a three-week study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945). Three Wednesdays - September 30, October 7 & October 14 - at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to register, contact the church office.

The fall meeting of the **Bethesda Book Club** will be held Thursday, October 8th at 5:00 to discuss Joanna Cannon's delightful *The Problem with Goats and Sheep*. Please email the church office to sign up or speak to Mary Sanders Shartle if you have any questions.

Choral Concert Join us Sunday, October 4 at 3pm for *In Sacred Song*, featuring the music of Michael Harrison (composer-in-residence with Saratoga Voices). Enjoy church anthems, carols, and hymn arrangements sung by an octet of some of the Capital District's finest choral singers. Free-will offering at the door to support music at Bethesda. All welcome!

Organ Recital Glens Falls Presbyterian presents its annual Beeman Organ Concert, Friday, October 2 at 7.30pm, Nathan Laube, Professor of Organ at Eastman School of Music, plays music of Bach, Franck, Liszt, and Vierne. Suggested donation $15. Reception follows.

The Office at 178 Elm Street, is open Tuesday 10 - noon, and Thursday from 1 - 3pm.

LifeWorks Community Action gratefully receives donations of canned foods and personal hygiene products. Items may be left in the box by the side door entrance.

Parking The lot adjacent to the church offers free parking for the first two hours.

The Reverend Charles Wallace, *Rector*

Office Email: office@bethesdachurch.org
Office Telephone: (518) 584-5980